

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented medical database comprising:
a document management system software module configured to receive and store
a plurality of medical documents, each of said plurality of documents having
 - a) protocol information associated therewith, the protocol information including at least one of a diagnosis protocol including a list of symptom associated with a medical diagnosis and a treatment protocol including one or more medical procedures to be performed; and
 - b) an evidence level associated with each of said plurality of documents, said evidence level being a rating metric indicating a confidence level associated with the protocol information, the confidence level based on at least one of a peer review and empirical information [[measurement of the validity of the protocol information for a document]].
2. (Original) A computer implemented medical database according to claim 1, wherein: the evidence level is based upon a plurality of factors, said factors including one or more of the following: controlled study data, cross-over trial data, and placebo study data, and common practice data.
3. (Original) A computer implemented medical database according to claim 2, wherein: each evidence level is determined by a consensus among peers.
4. (Original) A computer implemented medical database according to claim 3, wherein: each evidence level equals a percentage from 0% to 100%.

5. (Original) A computer implemented medical database according to claim 4, further including links to said protocol information associated with each of said plurality of documents.

6. (Original) A computer implemented medical database according to claim 5, further including one or more concept unique identifiers associated with each of said plurality of documents.

7. (Original) A computer implemented medical database according to claim 6, further including one or more evaluation and management codes associated with each of said plurality of documents.

8. (Original) A computer implemented medical database according to claim 7, further including: a computer-implemented user interface configured to access the computer implemented medical database, and computer program coding for each of said plurality of documents, said computer program coding being configured to enable presentation of the document using the computer implemented user interface.

9. (Original) A computer implemented medical database according to claim 8, further including: one or more templates, each of said one or more templates being configured for entry of the each of said plurality of medical documents, concept unique identifiers, and evaluation and management codes in the database.

10. (Original) A computer implemented medical database according to claim 9, further including: a document type identifier associated with each of said plurality of medical documents.

11. (Original) A computer implemented medical database according to claim 10, wherein the documents type identifier includes an indication of age for an intended reader of one or more of said plurality of documents.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a medical database, said method comprising steps of:

assigning a topic, the topic including at least one of a diagnosis protocol including a list of symptom associated with a medical diagnosis and a treatment protocol including one or more medical procedures to be performed;

receiving [[writing]] a document on the topic;

submitting the document to peers for review and assignment of an evidence level, said evidence level indicating a confidence level associated with the received document, the confidence level based on at least one of a peer review and empirical information related to the medical diagnosis or medical procedure; and

entering the document and the assigned evidence level for the document in a computer accessible database.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, said method further wherein the assigned evidence level is based upon a plurality of factors, said factors including one or more of the following: controlled study data, cross-over trial data, and placebo study data, and common practice data.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the assigned evidence level is determined by a consensus among peers.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, said method further including steps of assigning a concept unique identifier with the document and entering the assigned concept unique identifier in the database.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, said method further including steps of assigning a evaluation and management code with the document and entering the assigned evaluation and management code in the database.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 16, said method further including steps of assigning a critical data element with the document and entering the assigned critical data element in the database.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, said method further including steps encoding the document into a format compatible with a user interface.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented medical database comprising a database management system [[means]] for storing a plurality of medical documents, associated protocol information, and associated evidence levels, each of said plurality of documents having protocol information associated therewith, the protocol information including at least one of a diagnosis protocol including a list of symptom associated with a medical diagnosis and a treatment protocol including one or more medical procedures to be performed, and each of said plurality of documents having an evidence level associated therewith, said evidence level being a rating metric indicating a confidence level associated with the protocol information, the confidence level based on at least one of a peer review and empirical information.

20. (Original) A computer implemented medical database according to claim 19, further comprising a template for entering the plurality of medical documents, associated protocol information, and associated evidence levels into the database.

21. (New) A computer implemented document management system, comprising:
a document management software module configured to receive and store a plurality of medical documents, each of said plurality of documents including protocol

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information associated therewith, the protocol information including at least one of a diagnosis protocol including a list of symptom associated with a medical diagnosis and a treatment protocol including one or more medical procedures to be performed; and

an evidence level generation software module configured to generate an evidence level for the protocol information each of said plurality of documents,

wherein generating an evidence level includes at least one of

transmitting a medical document including the protocol information to a peer review group, receiving a peer review, and setting an evidence level based on the peer review,

determining whether the protocol information has been the subject of one or more empirical studies and setting an evidence level based on the results of the one or more empirical studies.